

Amendments To The Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method in an audio/video programming guide apparatus comprising:

~~in an audio/video programming guide apparatus:~~

providing access to characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content, wherein ~~at least some~~ a first plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content differ from ~~one another~~ a second plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content with respect to a primary transmission service provider; ~~at least one of:~~

~~bearer media;~~

~~primary transmission service provider;~~

~~data format;~~

providing at least one selection criterion;

applying the at least one selection criterion with respect to the characterizing descriptors of the first plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content to provide a resultant selection of the first plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content; and

displaying programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1 further comprising:

responding to a remote control by scrolling through the programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1 further comprising:

detecting user selection of a particular one of the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 1 further comprising a user database and wherein providing at least one selection criterion further comprises using information from the user database to characterize the at least one selection criterion to be provided.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method of claim 4 wherein using information from the user database to identify the at least one selection criterion to be provided comprises:

- accessing information from the user database to discern preferences of a particular user;
- accessing the characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content;

- comparing the preferences of a particular user to the characterizing descriptors ~~as individually correspond to a~~ of the first plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 4 further comprising:
responding to a remote control by selecting a particular one of the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein providing at least one selection criterion comprises:

- supplying at least one user-defined keyword; and
- matching the at least one user-defined keyword with at least one of the characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content.

Claim 8 (currently amended): An interactive programming guide comprising:
characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items

of audio/video content, wherein ~~at least some~~ a first plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content differ from a second plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content ~~one another~~ with respect to a primary transmission service provider ~~at least one of: and~~

~~bearer media;~~

~~primary transmission service provider;~~

~~data format;~~

at least one selection criterion; and

control circuitry adapted to ~~[[that]]~~:

apply ~~applies~~ the at least one selection criterion with respect to the characterizing descriptors of the first plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content to provide a resultant selection of first the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content; and

display ~~displays~~ programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The interactive programming guide of claim 8 wherein the control circuitry ~~comprises~~ further comprises filter means for comparing the at least one selection criterion with at least some of the characterizing descriptors of the first plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content to provide the resultant selection.

Claim 10 (original): The interactive programming guide of claim 8 and wherein the at least one selection criterion is based, at least in part, upon a preference of a present viewer of the interactive programming guide.

Claim 11 (original): The interactive programming guide of claim 8 wherein the at least one selection criterion comprises a user-defined keyword.

Claim 12 (original): The interactive programming guide of claim 8 wherein the at least one selection criterion is retained in a database.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A method of providing a programming guide comprising:
~~in an audio/video programming guide apparatus:~~

providing access to characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual programs, wherein a first plurality at least some of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs differ from a second plurality of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs with respect to a primary transmission service provider; ~~are supplied by different content service providers;~~

providing at least one selection criterion that corresponds to a given individual;

applying the at least one selection criterion with respect to the characterizing descriptors of the first plurality of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs and the second plurality of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs to provide a resultant selection of the first plurality of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs and the second plurality of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs; and

displaying programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 13 wherein providing at least one selection criterion that corresponds to a given individual further comprises ascertaining an identity of a present viewer.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The method of claim 14 wherein providing at least one selection criterion that corresponds to a given individual further comprises ~~further comprises~~ using the identity to recall at least one previously stored selection criterion.

Claim 16 (new): The method of claim 1, wherein displaying programming guide information further comprises displaying programming guide information comprising information regarding at

least a portion of the resultant selection, wherein the resultant selection includes two or more discrete selectable items of audio/video content from at least of one of the first plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content.

Claim 17 (new): The method of claim 13, wherein displaying programming guide information further comprises displaying programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection, wherein the resultant selection includes two or more discrete selectable items of audio/video content from at least of one of the first plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual programs and the second plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual programs.